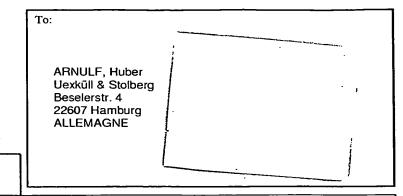
### From the INTERNAL NAL BUREAU

### **PCT**

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 72.2)



Date of mailing (day/month/year) 10 February 2005 (10.02.2005)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P 63259

International application No. PCT/EP2003/006940

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International filing date (day/month/year) 30 June 2003 (30.06.2003)

Applicant

REEMTSMA CIGARETTENFABRIKEN GMBH et al

#### 1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation made by the International Bureau of the international preliminary examination report established by the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

### 2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following elected Offices requiring such translation:

AZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, GH, KG, KP, KR, MK, MZ, RU, TM

The following elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

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### 3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report.

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Agnes Wittmann-Regis

Facsimile No.+41 22 740 14 35

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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



# **PCT**

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P 63259	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)					
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)		Priority date (day/month/year)			
PCT/EP2003/006940	30 June 2003 (30.06.2003)		01 July 2002 (01.07.2002)			
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A24B 3/18						
		•	•			
Applicant REEMTSMA CIGARETTENFABRIKEN GMBH						
<ol> <li>This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</li> </ol>						
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	4 sheets, i	ncluding this cover sh	neet.			
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).						
These annexes consist of a tot	al ofsh	eets.				
3. This report contains indications relat	ing to the following item	s:				
I Basis of the report						
II Priority						
III Non-establishment o	f opinion with regard to	novelty, inventive ste	p and industrial applicability			
IV Lack of unity of inve	ntion					
V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement						
VI Certain documents ci						
VII Certain defects in the international application						
VIII Certain observations on the international application						
Date of submission of the demand  Date of completion of this report						
09 December 2003 (09.12.2003)		30 September 2004 (30.09.2004)				
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP		Authorized officer				
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.				

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

Translation

International application No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

PCT/EP2003/006940

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3 337:41	•	the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished	
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3. With prelin	•	o any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the int amination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: d in the international application in written form.	ternational application, the international
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ا <b>ــا</b>	been furn	ement that the information recorded in computer readable form is iden- nished.	tical to the written sequence listing has
i. 🔲	The amer	ndments have resulted in the cancellation of:	
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		e claims, Nos.	
,		e drawings, sheets/fig	
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Replac	cement she s report a	eets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an insection of the contract of the cont	
* Any re	placement	t sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and a	nnexed to this report.

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

	l ational	application No.
í	PCT/EP	03/06940

v.	Reasoned statement under Article 3 citations and explanations supporti	5(2) with regard to no	velty, inventive step or industrial applic	ability;
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-6	YES .
		Claims		NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-6	YES
		Claims		NO NO
,	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-6	YES
	·	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. Document US-A-4577646 discloses all the features of the preamble of claim 1: a tobacco puffing process by treatment of the tobacco material with a treatment gas consisting of nitrogen and/or argon at pressures from 400 to 1000 bar, followed by continuous decompression and the thermal posttreatment of the discharged tobacco material.

In order to puff tobacco in autoclaves, the characterising part of claim 1 provides for the filling density of the tobacco load in the autoclave to amount to more than 0.2 kg/dm³. This increase in the filling quantity leads to a reduction in the specific consumption of treatment gas for a tobacco quantity to be puffed.

None of the processes known from the prior art includes this process step.

 Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements.